

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 COME-00

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R 132017Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2102

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 10684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PARTIAL POST-MORTEM ON VENEZUELAN

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

1. I WAS PRESENT TODAY AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VENEZUELA, COMPOSED OF TOP EXECUTIVES OF U.S. ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY. THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING OF SATISFACTION AT VICTORY OF ACCION DEMOCRATICA AND OF PLEASED AND RATHER PROUD SURPRISE THAT VENEZUELAN ELECTORATE HAD SHOWN SUCH MODERATION AND COMMON SENSE IN RETURNING A CANDIDATE WITH A MAJORITY OF HALF A MILLION VOTES. AMERICAN LEADERS FELT THAT THEY COULD "DO BUSINESS" WITH CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HIS NEW CONGRESS WHICH THEY THOUGHT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A SLIGHT AD MAJORITY, ALTHOUGH THIS HAD YET TO BE ESTABLISHED.

2. OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF NAA WALDRIP, WHO HAS LIVED ALMOST ALL HIS LIFE IN VENEZUELA AND HAS INTIMATE CONTACTS IN BOTH PARTIES, SAID THAT AT A POST-MORTEM SESSION OF COPEYANO LEADERSHIP, IT WAS AGREED THAT PARTY HAD MADE TWO IRRETRIEVABLE MISTAKES:

(A) CALDERA'S POLICY TOWARD CASTRO CUBA HAD RESULTED  
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NOT ONLY IN VEHEMENT OPPOSITION BY NATURALIZED VENEZUELANS OF CUBAN ORIGIN AND THE NUMEROUS

EXILE COLONY IN VENEZUELA BUT ALSO AN EVEN MORE LETHAL RESPONSE AMONG WEALTHY CUBANS IN MIAMI WHO PROMPTLY BEGAN TO POUR MONEY INTO ADECO COFFERS TO DEFEAT COPEI.

(B) SECOND MISTAKE WAS TO PORTRAY LORENZO FERNANDEZ AS A "FATHER FIGURE", USUALLY DANGLING ONE OF HIS INNUMERABLE GRANDCHILDREN ON HIS KNEE. THIS CONTRASTED WITH THE MORE RUGGED AND VIRILE IMAGE OF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WHO EPITOMIZED HIS OWN SLOGAN "DEMOCRACIA CON ENERGIA" AND HIS FREQUENT ASSERTIONS THAT HE AS PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN OFFICE "A MANDAR Y NO A SER MANDADO."

3. COMMENT: IN OUR JUDGEMENT, EACH OF THESE ANALYSES IS CORRECT ALTHOUGH EXTENT TO WHICH CUBAN EXILE MONEY MAY HAVE TURNED THE TRICK IS NOT PUBLICLY KNOWN. WE WOULD ADD THAT A THIRD FACTOR WHICH WORKED AGAINST COPEI WAS THE TOO BLATANT AND TOO OBVIOUS BARNSTORMING OF CALDERA AND HIS MINSTER OF PUBLIC WORKS OPENING NEW BRIDGES, HOSPITALS AND AIRPORTS ON A THRICE A DAY BASIS, INCLUDING AS AN ULTIMATE TOUCH OF FATUITY THE BREAKING OF NEW GROUND FOR A NON-EXISTENT SUBWAY IN CARACAS. THEREFORE, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE TRUE VICTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS WAS THE VENEZUELAN VOTER.

MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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